THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Upstream oil PSUs namely ONGC, OIL and GAIL have registered an increase in their profit levels reflecting *inter alia* the high crude oil prices in international markets. On the other hand, the Oil Marketing Companies, such as IOCL, IBP, HPCL & BPCL, have suffered heavy under-recoveries and even net losses/ cash losses on account of retail price of petrol, diesel, kerosene (PDS) and LPG (domestic) being reined in despite the unprecedented spiraling of international prices of crude and petroleum products.

(b) and (c) The details of profits earned/losses incurred by the major Public Sector Oil companies *viz.* ONGC, OIL, GAIL, IOCL, IBP, HPCL and BPCL during the first quarter of the year 2005-06 are given in the Statement.

Statement

Profits earned/losses incurred by major Public Sector Oil Companies

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the Public Sector Oil Company	Net profit after tax
ONGC	3319
OIL	333
GAIL	483

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the Public Sector Oil Company	Net loss after tax
IOC	54
IBP	234
HPCL	508
BPCL	431

Availability of ethanol

†2291. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ethanol is available for mixing in petrol and diesel;

(b) if so, the annual quantity of availability of this substance on an average in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it can be utilized by mixing in petrol and diesel;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the ethanol mixed petrol is considered to be made available to the consumers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Government introduced a mandatory 5% ethanol-blended petrol programme w.e.f. 1.1.2003. But despite the mandatory requirement, the programme could be implemented only fitfully and in a staggered manner because ethanol was not made available in a consistent manner and at reasonable prices. Therefore, a fresh Gazette Notification, No. GSR 705 (E) was issued on 27.10.2004 in keeping with ground realities and commercial viability. In compliance oil companies have finalized the purchase of ethanol in Uttar Pradesh and tenders have been invited from other States.

On 4th August, 2005 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was concluded between Indian Oil Corporation, the industry coordinator for oil marketing companies, and the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA), to ensure sustained availability of ethanol at commercially sustainable prices.

(b) Since molasses, a derivative of sugar used for the manufacture of ethanol, is a decontrolled item and ethanol manufacturing is a de-licensed activity, no data is being maintained regarding the production of ethanol.

(c) and (d) While ethanol can be blended in petrol, the technology for blending ethanol in diesel is not yet fully established for commercial use.

(e) As already stated in (a) above.

Profit earned by crude oil processing industries

†2292. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the profit earned by crude oil processing industries of public as well as private sector is increasing continuously;

(b) if so, the profit earned on oil refinement by these companies during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 separately; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.